

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Kanosh Bench Winter Range Enhancement

Proposal Number: 1485

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Millard

Project Manager: Steve Flinders

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/15/2009

Project Location: just South of Kanosh, near Widemouth Canyon

Project Description: Mechanically remove with skid-steer bull hog, 80-90% of Pinyon/Juniper from approx. 750 acres of cliffrose community in crucial deer winter range.

Description of Problem/Need: Pinyon and Juniper invasion into crucial deer winter range, once dominated by preferred woody browse species like Mexican Cliffrose and Wyoming sagebrush, has resulted in poor habitat conditions and increased risk of catastrophic wildfire; as well as contributing to reduced vigor in the remaining cliffrose community. The reasons for this treatment, is due to adjacent winter range being degraded by past fires and over utilized due to isolation by the barrier created by Interstate-15, thus forcing resident big game to this area. The project area consists of nearly 800 acres of big game winter range along the western edge of the Fishlake National Forest (Fillmore Ranger District), boundary just south of Kanosh in Millard County near Widemouth Canyon and 200 acres on adjacent private land.

Objectives: Goals: Increase habitat quality for wintering big game by increasing available winter browse species through removal of Pinyon/Juniper cover. Ultimately, increased winter survival for wintering deer.
Objectives: Reduce pinyon/Juniper cover in the project area to < 15%, and increase the grass/forb/shrub component to 20 – 25% over ten years.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project is directly in line with the Utah Wildlife Action plan for shrubsteppe and mountain shrub habitats, two of the ten key habitat types (table 7.2). The project will work to restore degraded habitats (General Conservation Actions pg. 8-2) by treating invasive species, reintroducing disturbance in the system, and planting desirable vegetation.

Project in concert with both the UDWR Statewide Deer Plan and the Fishlake NF Land & Resource Management Plan. Specifically, the Fillmore/Pahvant deer herd is far below objective and improved habitat conditions will increase winter survival and recruitment.

Potential Risks: Temporary and permanent displacement of small mammals due to the treatment.

Proposed Methods: Removal of pinyon/juniper trees via skid-steer mounted bullhog implements to both remove fuel loading (by mulching and reducing trees to ground slash) and stimulate mule deer browse by reducing shading and competition for soil and water. Hiding cover, migration corridors, and thermal cover for big game will be considered and provided for, as well as protection of cultural resources. Minimal ground disturbance is intended, due to use of skid-steers, while supplemental seeding (where tree cover is especially dense) should accelerate the establishment of preferred vegetation and help stave off exotic and undesirable species. Forest Service equipment and personnel will primarily be used to carry out this project.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1485.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: UDWR and USFS bi-annual deer classification to monitor production and subsequent survival on area deer herd. Photo point monitoring will be conducted pre-treatment, and years 1, 3, 5 and 10. Quantitative measurements of vegetative cover will be done using the line intercept method pre-treatment, and 1, 3, 5, and 10 year post-treatment. This would also be a good location for more formal data collection by the UDWR Range Trend Crew as this is a priority area for the mule deer herd in the area, based on Sean Kelly's recommendation.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Monday, March 16, 2009 1:13:46 PM

Project Proposal

Mule Deer

Elk

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	750
Total	750

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$30,000.00		\$0.00
USFS	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00
Totals	\$60,000.00		\$30,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Materials and Supplies	Fuel, repairs, and other misc. supplies	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Personal Services	Labor to run Bobcats	\$30,000.00	\$7,000.00
Seed (GBRC)	USFS Provided seed	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Totals		\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00

Project Map:

